FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF COPPELL

The Christmas Story

A Family Activity Kit

Coloring pages, games, cookies, and table talk for kids ages 3 to 10

Dear parents and caregivers,

Christmas tells us that God loved us first. Before we did anything, God came close to us in Jesus. We call that love **grace**.

Each coloring page tells part of the Christmas story. Read the verse aloud while your child colors, then read the Grace Connection together. Between each coloring page you will find a game or family activity. Pick one page a day, or use them all on a cozy afternoon.

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Christmas Eve — THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m.	**FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**	*Sanctuary · Great for kids*
6:00 p.m.	**TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**	*Sanctuary*
8:00 p.m.	**MODERN CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**	*Ministry Center*
11:00 p.m.	**TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**	*Sanctuary*

All Christmas Eve services are candlelight services.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

10:00 a.m.

One worship service

Scan for Christmas details

420 S. HEARTZ ROAD, COPPELL, TX 75019 | FUMCCOPPELL.ORG

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The Angel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38



"Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you." **Luke 1:30**

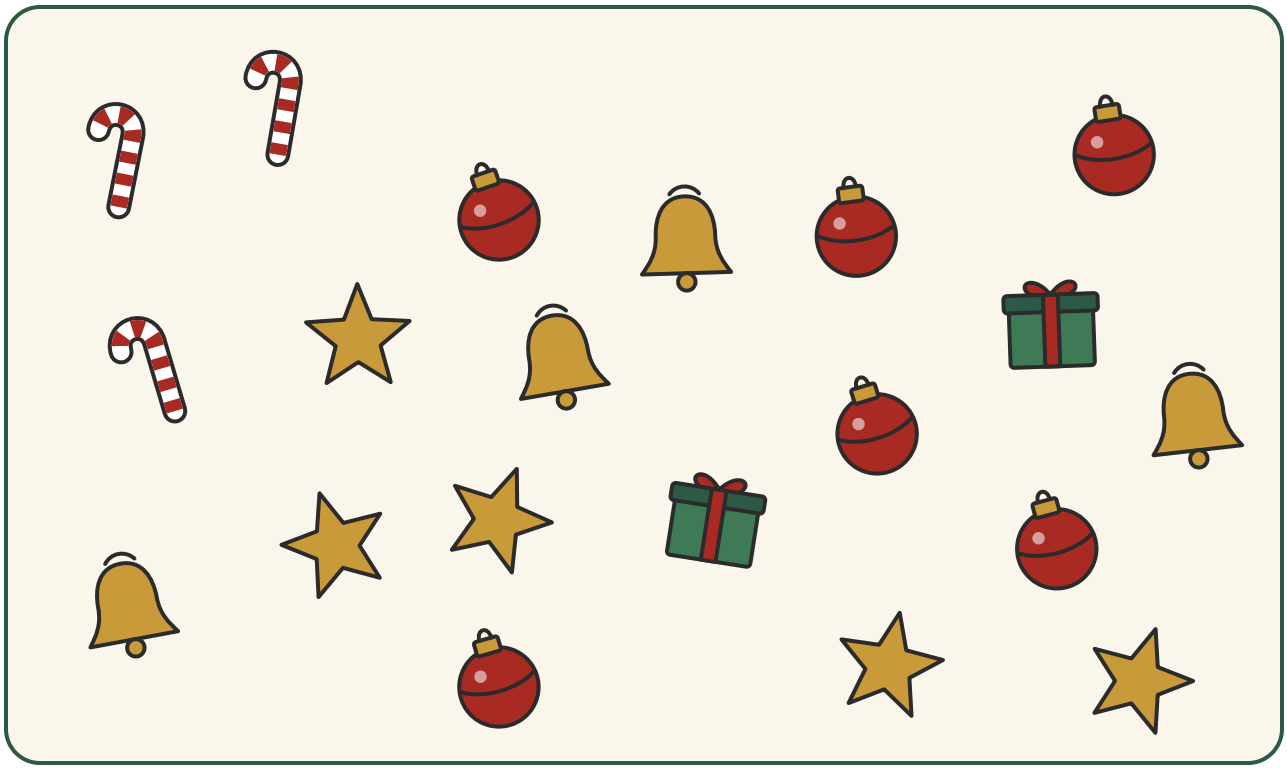
GRACE CONNECTION

God's love reaches us before we ask.

FIND AND COUNT

I Spy and Count

Find each Christmas picture below. Color one box for every one you find.
Big kids can write the number too!



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GRACE CONNECTION

God knows and loves every one of us, and every one of us counts.

Answer key: 5 stars, 4 bells, 3 candy canes, 6 ornaments, 2 gifts

No Room, Born in a Manger

Luke 2:1-7



"She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom." **Luke 2:7**

GRACE CONNECTION

God came to us in a humble place.

IN THE CAR, AT THE STORE, OR AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Out and About Christmas Hunt

When you spot something on the list, check the box. Can you find them all before Christmas Eve?

- ☐  A wreath on a door
- ☐  A candy cane
- ☐  A Christmas tree
- ☐  A star on top of something
- ☐  A big red bow
- ☐  A snowman
- ☐  Christmas lights
- ☐  A nativity scene
- ☐  A gingerbread person
- ☐  A Christmas bell
- ☐  A church
- ☐  Someone being kind

Bonus challenge
When you find a nativity scene, can you point to Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus? Who else came to see Jesus?

Grown-up tip
For little ones, name the picture out loud and let them point first. Celebrate every find!

GRACE CONNECTION

The last box is the most important. When we are kind, we share God's love.

Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20



"Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord." **Luke 2:11**

GRACE CONNECTION

Good news for ordinary people.

LOOK CLOSELY

Hidden Pictures

The shepherds hurried to find baby Jesus. Can you find the 6 Christmas pictures hiding in this scene?

Check each box when you find it, then color the whole picture!



GRACE CONNECTION

God was not hiding at Christmas. God came close so everyone could find Jesus.

Answer key: bell in the sky on the left, ornament in the sky on the right, heart on the hill, candle beside the middle shepherd, candy cane on the right shepherd's robe, gift on the middle shepherd's robe

The Wise Men Follow the Star

Matthew 2:1-12



"When they saw the star, they were filled with joy." **Matthew 2:10**

GRACE CONNECTION

Jesus came for everyone, from everywhere.

BAKE TOGETHER

Family Christmas Cookies

Makes about 30 three-inch cookies | Prep 20 minutes | Chill 1 hour | Bake 8 to 10 minutes

Cookies

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Simple icing

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- Food coloring and sprinkles (optional)

Story shapes to try



Star for the wise men



Heart for God's love



Bell to ring good news



Tree for Christmas joy

Steps

1. **GROWN-UP:** Heat the oven to 350°F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. **KID JOB:** Whisk the flour, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.
3. **TOGETHER:** Beat the butter and sugar 2 to 3 minutes until fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla.
4. **KID JOB:** Add the flour mixture a little at a time and mix until a dough forms.
5. **GROWN-UP:** Split the dough in half, wrap each piece, and chill for 1 hour.
6. **KID JOB:** Roll the dough ¼ inch thick on a floured counter and press in your cookie cutters.
7. **GROWN-UP:** Bake 8 to 10 minutes, until the edges are barely golden. Cool 5 minutes on the pan, then move to a rack.
8. **KID JOB:** Stir the icing ingredients together. Add milk 1 teaspoon at a time if it is too thick. Decorate!

Safety note: A grown-up handles the oven and hot pans. This recipe contains wheat, dairy, and egg, so check for allergies before you share.

While the cookies bake, talk about

- The wise men brought gifts to Jesus. What gift would you give?
- Which shape will you decorate first, and why?
- Who could we surprise with cookies this week?

Share a plate

Fill a plate with cookies and give it to a neighbor, teacher, or friend. Add a note: "Merry Christmas! God loves you."

GRACE CONNECTION

Grace is a gift we don't earn. Sharing cookies is a sweet way to share it.

AT DINNER, IN THE CAR, OR AT BEDTIME

Table Talk

Pick one or two questions a night. Grown-ups, answer too!

For little ones (ages 3 to 6)

- What was baby Jesus' bed called? (A manger!)
- Who came to visit baby Jesus?
- If you could give baby Jesus a present, what would it be?
- The angel said, "Don't be afraid." What helps you feel brave?

For big kids (ages 7 to 10)

- Why do you think God sent Jesus as a tiny baby?
- The angels told shepherds first. Why do you think God chose them?
- Grace is God's love that we can't earn. Where did you see grace today?
- Who could we invite to Christmas Eve this year?

A family prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving us first and for sending Jesus to be with us. Help us share your love with everyone we meet this Christmas. Amen.

Grace in action this week

- [ ] Give someone a big hug
- [ ] Share a toy or a treat
- [ ] Make a card for someone
- [ ] Pray for a friend
- [ ] Bring cookies to a neighbor
- [ ] Invite someone to Christmas Eve

See you on Christmas Eve!

Thursday, December 24 at 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m.
The 4:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service is made for kids.
Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 a.m. | 420 S. Heartz Road, Coppell